Secret Tapes Are Cited in Garrison Case

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NEW ORLEANS, Aug. 21 (AP)—The prosecution told a federal court jury today that evidence against District Attorney Jim Garrison, accused of taking bribes to protect gambling, includes the sound of actual conversations and even the rustle of cash payoffs being counted.

"We will play 55 tapes recorded between November 1970 and June 1971," said U.S. Attorney Gerald Gallinghouse in his opening statement at Garrison's U.S. District Court trial.

The tapes were secretly recorded by Garrison's onetime close friend, Pershing Gervais, during a two-year period in which he was a confidential government informer.

Gallinghouse said that although the indictment dealt only with a specific time frame in 1971, "this was a continuing series of bribery that began many years before."

On trial with Garrison were two men well known in the New Orleans pinball machine business: John Aruns Callery, 63, a former part-owner of the New Orleans Novelty Co., and Robert Nims, 40, owner of REN Enterprises.

"The government will show that Robert Nims, John Aruns Callery and Jim Garrison conspired between themselves and others in the giving and taking of bribes for the protection of illegal pinball machine gambling," Gallinghouse said.

A jury of nine men and three women was seated Monday in the U.S. District Court trial.

Garrison, 52, contends the charge is a frameup, in revenge for his accusations that the assassination of President John F. Kennedy was a conspiracy involving federal forces.